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OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM

MGBA-322

BSC/Ops/131
Berlin
21 Aug 1947

TO : []
FROM : [] [] []
SUBJECT : Reaction of Major SKURIN to Suggestion for Meeting U.S. Officer.

NOTE: Although it would not be consistent with Major SKURIN's past record, so far as it is known to us, to expect that he would permit himself to be defected outright, it has been decided that the time is now ripe to plant a few hints which he could interpret, if he desires, as offers to accept his collaboration. Although the present operation involving CAMISADE has in recent weeks been profitable because of the Russian and Russian controlled press services information which he has furnished us, this intelligence has not truly been a product of the doubling operation against SKURIN, but rather the result of CAMISADE's own diligence in gathering it.

1. From the early part of our taking control of CAMISADE, SKURIN has been under the impression that the former was in contact with a U.S. officer. This notional officer, Captain THOMPSON, was mentioned in MGB-1346/BSC-648. On 19 July 1947, coinciding with the change of CAMISADE case officers (cf BSC/Ops/116), SKURIN was told that Captain THOMPSON was leaving Berlin for some time, but that CAMISADE would continue to have an American contact in the person of a Mr. WEBB. Mr. WEBB, also notional, was described as an American civilian employed by OMGUS who had a personal interest in intelligence matters, but who was not actually an intelligence officer.
2. In an attempt to coax SKURIN into some sort of personal overtures toward the Americans, CAMISADE and his case officer built a legend around the desire of the notional WEBB to meet frequently with a Russian officer. This legend was to be given to SKURIN in the form of a written report, couched in disinterested terms, which CAMISADE was to hand him without the knowledge of SKURIN's interpreter. According to this report, CAMISADE, on learning of WEBB's interest in meeting a Russian officer had told him he had met a Russian officer on the street shortly after the Russian occupation of Berlin. This notional officer, answering to the physical description of SKURIN, had asked CAMISADE to accompany him around Berlin in making some purchases, CAMISADE had agreed, and an acquaintanceship had developed. CAMISADE told WEBB,

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he said in the report, that he knew the officer only by his first name, "Nikolas", and his nickname, "Kolka". CAMISADE said that he had the impression that Nikolas was an administrative officer in a Russian higher headquarters in the Russian Zone, who came only infrequently to Berlin, that, as all Russian officers must be, he was a Communist, but not particularly devoted to the Communist cause.

3. As arranged, the report on WEBB's interest in personal contacts with Russians was handed to SKURIN without his interpreter's knowledge by CAMISADE on 9 August, leaving the way open for him to take action on it without the knowledge of his superiors. As events later proved, however, SKURIN either did not desire to enter privately into such a liaison or at any rate felt it to be risky to do so. He saw CAMISADE next on Friday night, 15 August; and he came accompanied not only by his male interpreter, but also by a "Major ANTONOV". ANTONOV had a thick, but intelligent face; heavy build; light brown hair; weighed about 68-70 kg; a confident air, impressed CAMISADE as probably an officer of importance. The conversation turned at once to WEBB's proposal; and from the way in which the major conducted the conversation it was obvious to CAMISADE that it was precisely in regard to this matter that he had accompanied SKURIN. Major ANTONOV advised CAMISADE to tell WEBB that since his last conversation with him he had happened to meet his friend Nikolas, and had asked what his exact job was. Nikolas had answered that he was an administrative officer in a Soviet radio-telegraph communications center in the Soviet Zone. He said that he expected to be back in Berlin very soon, and would look CAMISADE up at his quarters when he came. CAMISADE was to repeat his original description (closely resembling that of SKURIN) to WEBB, except to describe him as somewhat heavier than he had at first said. From the tenor of the conversation and the occasional asides in Russian, partly understood by CAMISADE, between SKURIN and ANTONOV, CAMISADE judges the major intends to produce a stand-in for SKURIN to meet WEBB.

Field Comment: Two can, of course, play at the game of substituting ringers for intelligence officers; and if SKURIN comes through with concrete proposals when meeting CAMISADE next (Saturday, 23 August), a reliable American officer will be selected to pose as Mr. WEBB. It is recommended that by thus approaching SKURIN from a new angle it may be possible to add to our analysis of him and possibly discover something new of his operational procedure, by forcing him into more revealing action.

TO: FBM for SC Wash 1st Ind

Approved.

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